Tour of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer and the Travelling Allowance drawn.

110. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—Will the Government be pleased to inform the total amount of T. A. bills drawn by the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer, during the last 2 years;

(2) will they also be pleased to state for how many days in the last 2 years the Medical and Sanitary Officer was in camp?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Rupees 2,093-12-0.

(2) Two hundred and twenty-one days.

Irregular contracts.

111. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there were, or are, any contractors in the Medical Department who have been given contracts and from whom deposit money was not taken before the contracts, and (b) whether any deposit money from any contractor was taken in instalments from monthly bills due to the contractor for supplies; if so, (c) will the Government be further pleased to state the reasons for such deviations;

(2) will the Government be further pleased to state whether contractors have been changing contracts to others; if so, in how many cases such changes were effected and the reasons for such changes may also be stated?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) (a) There were and are contractors from whom deposit money has not been taken.

(b) Yes.

(c) No deviation. This was introduced for the first time amongst contractors of dietary articles as a security against default.

(2) Yes.

In two instances during the current year with the approval and sanction of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer. Their inability to carry on.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why were contracts given without the deposit money as per the terms of tender?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Let the question be put definitely. I have already said that contracts are given without deposit money. It was already there. It was in vogue.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why was the deviation made?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is answered. 'No deviation. This was introduced for the first time amongst contractors of dietary articles as a security against default.' We

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introduced it for the first time last year. All these years there was no deposit of money. It was I who introduced it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—After making the rule that contractors should give deposits, why was the deviation made in the answer to (a)? After the rule has been made, are there any present contractors from whom no deposit money has been taken?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No. (1) mentions contracts without deposits. We do not get any deposit money from the European contractors.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Do these European contractors supply dietary articles to the hospital?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The question is of a general nature and hence that answer was given.

President.—The question does not refer particularly to dietary articles.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes. My supplementary question is on the answer given to sub-division (c), where it is said that 'this was introduced for the first time amongst contractors of dietary articles as a security against default'. My supplementary question is who are all the persons from whom deposit money has not been taken (contractors of dietary articles).

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I say no

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then, may we know, Sir, whether one Mr. Rayan has deposited money and whether money was not being deducted from the monthly payments to him towards his deposit as security?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. I have given him that concession.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It is a diametrically opposite answer.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, no.

President.—He only says that it was not consistent with the rule introduced. That rule has not been invariably followed.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—In every case this rule is followed.

President.—About this Rayan, you take the deposit money by instalments. It is true you take the deposit money.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—You pay Government money first and then take it from him as a deposit.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, no.

President.—Do not lose your temper.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No, I do not lose my temper.

President.—You must be calm and patient.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I am glad to hear that the official side also loses temper. Losing temper is not a monopoly of the

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elected Members on this side. I am glad you made your remarks about this.

Appointment of the Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer.

112. Mr. A. B. Salem.—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have obtained the sanction of the Government of India for employing the present Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer in the State's services; if so, how many years of his services were asked for by the Cochin Government in the requisition applied for;

(2) will the Government be further pleased to state how many officers in the Medical Department have their promotions barred by the drafting into and retention in, service of the present Chief Medical Officer?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) Government cannot divulge the contents of the correspondence with the Paramount Power.

(2) None.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The answer is 'Government cannot divulge the contacts of the correspondence with the Paramount Power.' I only asked whether sanction has been obtained.

President.—It is all contained in the correspondence.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I do not want the correspondence.

President.—If we are to answer, we will have to disclose the correspondence.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In the last published order, it is stated that the Paramount Power has allowed to extend his period for two years from 1926. Is that the full time allowed? Further extensions have not been published. I have not seen anything published. In the Diwan's Proceedings published, it is stated that he is to be given Rs. 20 every year as pension. All these terms have been published in the Proceedings.

President.—Further extension not published?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—No.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I do not know whether it is published or not.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—If it is published, Government ought to know.

In the case of pensioned officers, they could not be kept in service by any other Government without the permission of the pension—giving party. That is the rule. When it is published for two years, why has it been abandoned? Why any further extension is not published or whether it is under correspondence with the Paramount Power? May I know why it is not published?

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